Turnover of retail market

†2275. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to State :

(a) whether it is a fact that turnover rate of retail market in the country is constantly increasing since last few years;

(b) if so, the average annual growth rate of the same during last five years;

(c) whether its growth rate is required to be increased while keeping in view the present growth rate; and

(d) if so, the benefit likely to be accrued as a result thereof and whether foreign capital is necessary for increasing the annual growth rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) As per a study commissioned to Indian Council for Research on Internatioanl Relations (ICRIER) by the Department of Consumer Affairs, the size of Indian retail market had been estimated at Rs. 7,40,000 crores in the year 2002. On an average, this sector has grown at 7% per annum during 1999-2002;

(c) Yes, Sir;

(d) According to 10th Five Year Plan, expansion of modern retailing would, *inter alia,* improve the quality of employment in the sector, develop real estate, promote tourism through better shopping experience. No detailed proposal has, as yet, been finalized with respect to Foreign Direct Investment in retail sector.

WTO deadline to EU for ending sugar sops

2276. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government is aware of the news-item which appeared in media titled WTO sets deadline for European Union to end sugar sops;

(b) how it will be helpful for the Indian exporters: and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government is taking necessary action for giving due returns to the small farmers also?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) Yes,Sir.

(b) and (c) It is expected that with reduction in subsidies to EU farmers, price of sugar in the world markets will rise, giving better prices to our exporters and consequently remunerative returns to the sugar farmers, including small farmers.

Effect of cheap imports on artisans and craftsmen

2277. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to State:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of Muslims are artisans and craftsmen whose products are threatened by cheap imports from abroad;

(b) if so, the reason therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Chinese silk or imported carpets and leather products tend to throw silk weavers in Karnataka or leather-goods markers in Andhra Pradesh and other States out of job;

(d) if so, the reasons identified by Government; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to protect such artisans and craftsmen in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) No Sir, No such report is available that the products of these artisans and craftsmen are threatened by cheap imports from abroad.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The import of cheap Chinese silk fabrics from China is adversely affecting the silk weavers of Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat. The import of machine made carpet is also causing problem for low priced handloom carpets sale in domestic market. Leather goods artisans in Andhra Pradesh are not facing any threat from imports.